

VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP OF OCTOBER 9, 2015

The Village of Estero Council Workshop was held on this date at the Estero Fire Rescue District Meeting Room, 21500 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida.

Present: Mayor Nick Batos - District 6, Vice-Mayor Howard Levitan - District 2, Councilmember Bill Ribble, District 1, Councilmember Donald Brown - District 3, and Councilmember Jim Wilson - District 7. Absent: Councilmember Katy Errington - District 4 (excused absence) and Councilmember Jim Boesch - District 5 (excused absence).

Also present: Village Manager Peter Lombardi, Village Attorney Burt Saunders, and Village Clerk Kathy Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Batos called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Batos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Village Clerk Kathy Hall called the roll; all members were present with the exception of Councilmembers Errington and Boesch.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was not made.

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

Note: Agenda items 5 (B) and 5 (C) were addressed prior to 5 (A) due to Mr. Wilkinson's arrival time.

(A) Presentation: Ken Wilkinson, C.F.A., Lee County Property Appraiser

Ken Wilkinson, Lee County Property Appraiser, provided explanation of printed materials presented: Lee County Property Appraiser's Office brochure; Lee County Property Appraiser's Office Selects Comper by Spataleest for Newest Sales Comparison Tool press release; Lee County Tax Roll Values - 2015 Preliminary document; Lee County Property Appraiser Annual Report - 2015; and Property Appraiser Calendar. Council discussion and questions followed. Fire Chief Scott Vanderbrook inquired regarding boundary lines.

Mayor Batos called for public comment and no one came forward.

Note: Agenda items 5 (B) and (C) were addressed together.

- (B) Discussion: Interlocal Agreement between Lee County and the Village of Estero for a Disposal Facilities Assessment (Mayor Batos and Village Attorney)**
- (C) Discussion: Interlocal Agreement between Lee County and the Village of Estero for Municipal Solid Waste Collection, Billing, and Disposal (Mayor Batos and Village Attorney)**

Mayor Batos, Village Manager Lombardi, and Village Attorney Saunders provided an explanation regarding the two Interlocal Agreements, noting that they attended a meeting with Lee County representatives. Discussion followed regarding solid waste disposal from natural disasters; FEMA reimbursements; proposed contract term; franchise fee payment; honoring all solid waste contracts until expiration; and solid waste collection revenue.

Mayor Batos called for public comment and no one came forward.

- (D) Discussion: Employee Policies and Procedures Manual (Village Manager)**

Councilmember Ribble believed that discussion on the manual should be tabled until the new Village Manager was present. Vice Mayor Levitan stated he had issues with some of the policies, inquired whether the Village Attorney had an opportunity to have an expert from the law firm review the manual, and inquired whether it would be helpful for the current employees to review and provide comments. Village Attorney Saunders responded that there was someone in the law firm that specialized in personnel matters; he was waiting for Council direction prior to engaging her to review the manual.

Discussion followed relating to benefits; the possibility of a cafeteria plan; leave accruals; reserves set aside for contingent liabilities; and charter provisions.

Mayor Batos stated that the manual would be set aside to be addressed soon after the new Village Manager's arrival, preferably mid-November. Village Manager Lombardi stated that he would send the electronic version of the manual to Mr. Sarkozy.

Public Comment:

Beverly MacNellis, Marsh Landing resident, spoke to her experience as a union president and stated that there was a cap on sick days; any time over 180 days could be donated to a "sick bank."

Note: Agenda items 5 (E) and (F) were addressed together.

- (E) Discussion: Village Employee Retirement Program Administrative Services Agreement between ICMA Retirement Corporation and Village of Estero and Governmental Money Purchase 401 Plan and Trust (Village Manager)**
- (F) Discussion: Village Employee Deferred Compensation Plan 457 and Administrative Services Agreement between ICMA Retirement Corporation and Village of Estero (Village Manager)**

Village Manager Lombardi provided an explanation of the plans administered by the ICMA Retirement Corporation. Discussion followed regarding employer/employee contributions; budgeted pension contributions; and whether there was the need to go out for bid and review three plans.

Village Manager Lombardi stated he was very familiar with the plans, he had been involved with the ICMA Retirement Corporation since 1972, it was probably the largest plan available to public employees, and was an attractive plan because employees could carry it with them should they obtain employment with another city or county.

Vice Mayor Levitan stated that Council had not decided on the level of a pension plan, which he believed allowed additional time to get more options for the employees, and suggested comparing a couple of plans and tabling the discussion of plans until November. Brief discussion ensued and Councilmember Ribble stated that the new Village Manager should be involved with the discussion. Village Manager Lombardi noted that Mr. Sarkozy's contract specifically included contribution into the ICMA plan being discussed.

Mayor Batos called for public comment and no one came forward.

(G) Discussion: Capitalization Threshold (Finance Director)

Finance Director Pace referred to a memorandum dated October 5, 2015, outlining a proposed capitalization threshold for financial reporting, required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Ms. Pace provided a detailed explanation of the capitalization threshold that would be in line with policies that were being adhered to by other governmental entities. Council discussion followed. Consensus was to bring the capitalization policy back to Council on October 21, 2015 for adoption.

(H) Discussion: Village Traffic Study on Corkscrew Road (Mayor Batos)

Mayor Batos referred to three traffic study proposals which were analyzed by the MPO, and noted that the three consultants would be asked to revise the proposals utilizing current traffic counts. He stated that it was still undetermined when Lee County would be performing their traffic study. He indicated that the revised proposals would be on an upcoming meeting agenda for direction from Council. Vice Mayor Levitan stated that the issue of traffic counts came up at the recent CAC meeting and that a vote was taken to request that MPO take a position urging Lee County to raise impact fees. He also said that FDOT was apparently raising the issue of traffic counts for Corkscrew Road, which he believed would part of the report going to the MPO from the CAC.

Public Comment:

Don Eslick stated that the ECCL met with two of the firms some time ago and that the focus of their efforts was not necessarily based on traffic counts; there was a lot more intensive analysis in those reports than what the County would prepare. He also spoke to the boundaries of the the study and believed that it should be extended to the entire village.

Mayor Batos added that he would speak to the items at the upcoming MPO meetings.

6. PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Don Eslick, ECCL, spoke regarding his document entitled “How Estero’s Roadway Needs Fare Under the 2040 Plan.” Council discussion followed.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Ribble reported that the lease for 9401 Corkscrew Palms Circle would be on the October 21, 2015 Council meeting agenda.

Vice Mayor Levitan reported that a group would be meeting with Village developers on Monday, October 12, 2015, to educate consultants Bill Spikowski and Seth Harry, and to discuss the developer’s zoning proposals. He indicated that this would be a topic of discussion at the October 28, 2015 Council workshop.

Mayor Batos reminded the Council to submit items for the workshop list.

8. VILLAGE MANAGER’S COMMENTS

None.

9. VILLAGE ATTORNEY’S COMMENTS

None.

10. ADJOURN

Mayor Batos adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

ATTEST:

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

By: _____

By: _____

Kathy Hall, MMC
Village Clerk

Nicholas Batos
Mayor